

POTPOURRI

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries published a Notice of Intent to establish the Louisiana Fisheries Forward Program in the July 20, 2014 edition of the Louisiana Register (LR Vol. 40, No. 07). After a thorough review of the proposed rules, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries proposed substantive changes in LAC 76:VII.347 G.2. A public hearing pursuant to R.S. 49:968(H)(2) was conducted October 22, 2014, at 10:00 AM, and the changes were accepted. After further review, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries proposes the following substantive changes found in LAC 76:VII B, C.2, E.1, F.1, F.2, F.3, G.1, G.3, H.1(a), H.1(b), and H.2. A public hearing pursuant to R.S. 49:968(H)(2) will be conducted _____, at _____.

TITLE 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 3. Saltwater Sport and Commercial Fishery

§ 347. Louisiana Fisheries Forward Program

A. ...

B. For the purposes of this section, the following will be defined as:

Applicant – Licensed commercial fishermen attempting to obtain a commercial crab trap gear license through the program.

Mentor – A ~~person fisherman~~ holding a valid commercial crab trap gear license who mentors an apprentice in completing the Apprenticeship Path.

Sponsor – A ~~person fisherman or wholesale/retail dealer~~ holding a valid commercial crab trap gear license who sponsors an apprentice in completing Sponsorship Path.

C. ...

1. ...

2. Before beginning a training path, an applicant must possess a valid Louisiana Commercial Fisherman's License and submit an application including copies of the applicant and mentor/sponsor's state issue identification to the Department for approval. ~~Their~~ license number will be used to track participation in the program.

3.- 4. ...

D. ...

1. ...

2. Any person choosing to participate as a mentor shall possess a valid commercial crab trap gear license and have documented a minimum of six verifiable trip tickets showing sales of crabs caught in Louisiana landings in any two of the previous four years.

3. Any person choosing to participate as a sponsor shall possess a valid commercial crab trap gear license and have documented a minimum of six verifiable trip tickets showing sales of crabs caught in Louisiana waters landings as a commercial fisherman or wholesale / retail dealer in any two of the previous four years.

E. ...

1. Each applicant must successfully complete a NASBLA approved boating safety class as required by R.S. 34:851.36. ~~Each applicant must obtain a Louisiana Boater Education certificate via the Louisiana Boater Safety Course.~~

2. ...

F. ...

1. To initiate the Apprenticeship Training Path the applicant and applicant's mentor must complete and submit an application to the Department. The application shall state the intent to participate in apprenticeship training and include the last four digits of the social security numbers, names, addresses, commercial fishing license numbers, and photocopies of the state issued photo identification of both the applicant and the applicant's mentor. Additionally, the mentor's valid commercial crab trap gear license number must be provided.

2. The applicant shall complete a minimum of 200 hours of apprenticeship training related to crab fishing under supervision of the applicant's designated mentor. Training hours shall be recorded daily on training log forms provided by the Department. Copies of the training logs shall be submitted to the Department on a quarterly basis. A minimum of 100 hours of training shall be performed and logged on days when the applicant's mentor has harvested and reported trip ticket sales of crabs. Any previous work or training experience in the crab fishery conducted prior to the date of approval of the apprenticeship by the Department ~~is initiated~~ shall not count toward the applicant's total required hours.

3. Upon completion, the applicant and mentor must complete and submit a notarized affidavit signed by both the applicant and the mentor and include the original signed training log forms along with copies of the trip tickets evidencing harvesting hours. The affidavit shall be provided by the Department and indicate the completion of the apprenticeship, affirm the accuracy of the associated log forms and corresponding trip tickets, and include the name, address, and commercial fishing license of both the applicant and the mentor.

G. ...

1. To initiate the Sponsorship Training Path the applicant and applicant's sponsor must complete and submit an application to the Department. The application shall state the intent to participate in sponsorship training and include the last four digits of the social security numbers, names, addresses, commercial fishing license numbers, and photocopies of state issued photo identification of both the applicant and the applicant's sponsor. Additionally, the sponsor's valid commercial crab trap gear license number must be provided.

2. ...

3. Upon completion, the applicant and sponsor must complete and submit a ~~second~~ notarized affidavit signed by both the applicant and the sponsor and include copies of the trip tickets used to evidence the required crab fishing trips. The affidavit shall be provided by the Department and indicate the completion of the sponsorship, affirm the accuracy of the associated trip tickets, and include the name, address, and commercial fishing license of both the applicant and the sponsor ~~mentor~~.

H. ...

1. ...

a. Each hour of meeting attendance shall substitute for one hour of the apprenticeship requirement. Every ten (10) hours of meeting attendance shall substitute for one fishing trip of the sponsorship requirement.

b. A maximum fifty (50) hours of meeting attendance may be substituted for the apprenticeship requirements, or a maximum five (5) fishing trips may be substituted for the sponsorship requirements. ~~A maximum 50 hours of 5 fishing trips may be substituted.~~

2. Attendance at meetings or educational events shall be documented by a designated Department employee or agent. The applicant shall sign in upon arrival, present a valid photo ID and provide their commercial license number. Upon departure, the applicant shall sign out.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:305.6.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Notice of Intent by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 40:1428 (July 2014), amended by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, LR _____ (October 2014), LR _____ (November 2014).

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on _____, at _____ at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 2000 Quail Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

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